**The essential question asked by Gary Paulsen in The River is, “How should one behave in the face of overwhelming difficulty?” The answer that Paulsen gives is that to overcome an overwhelming difficulty, one should be brave, intelligent, and persistent. This will be proved by giving examples from the novel of Brian trates .** **Brian Robeson, the main character in Gary Paulsen’s The River, is Brave, Intelgent, Perstance, Active The main character trait of Brian Robesen is his active. By active we mean Staying outside and staying on alert .Brian shows his Activeness when he is trying to get derrick after he gets struck by lighting The second character trait of Brian Robesen is his Bravenes. By Brave we mean when brain besides to go back into the woods. Brian shows his Bravery when he besides do go back into the woods .The third character trait of Brian Robesen is his Intelenge. By intellengence we mean his smarts. Brian shows his Intellengence when heknew when derrk got sruck by lightning to bring him to a small village. The frorth character trait of Brian Robesen is his Perstance. By perstance we mean never backing down. Brian shows his Perstance when he when he wold go back into the woods no madder what.** **The conflict of the river changes by…. At the begining of the book the confict was that if brian was going in to the woods with his friends or just by him self.At the end of the book the confict at the end was that derick got struck by lightning and brian tryed to help him get to the small vilige. The same thing was that brian are involved in them both. The diffeerence is the rest. The rest is...... the dishion of goin into the woods or not and getting derk sruck by lighting. The problem-solving process that Brian uses to solve his new conflict is the thinking process. There are nine steps in the thinking or Thinking-solving process.**

**The first step in the thinking process involves making an obstervation or a having a perception. This means that a person senses an event. At this moment, the person who sensed the event does not know what it is. Thus, he or she naturally reflects or to what it is that he or she just heard or saw or felt or tasted or smelled, etc. Reflecting/ Wondering is the scound moment in the problem-solving process. Often, this leads the person to investigate further the event that was sensed or observed. If enough information is available, the person will name the event or solve the problem that he or she had just sensed. That is the third moment in the thinking process.**

**Next comes the third step in this problem-solving process: Consider Alternatives or Options.**

**That is the fourth moment in the thinking process/problem-solving process. Once the person has listed the possible alternatives, then a decision must be made as to which alternative or choice is most logical. The next step, the fourth step, in the process of making this decision is often what we mean when we use the word “thinking.” But really what most often happens here is that the person engages in a mental “what-if game.” Basically, this means that the person tries to make a produiction of what in the future what would most likely happen if each choice, or choice, were selected. Based upon those predictions, the problem-solver chousing a solution. That is the sixth moment in the thinking process.**

**The next, and seventh step, involves preparung a plan of how to put the solution into action. After this, the problem-solver gathers series or information to use when the plan is done. That is the eighth step. Finally, in the ninth step, the problem-solver actuallyproforming or does the solution.** **On page 66 of The River, we clearly see an example of the third step in the thinking process: identifying or nameing the problem. Here, on page 66, we learn that Brian has a name for Derek’s problem. He says that Derek is in a coma. Shortly, thereafter, on page 67, Brian starts to feel angry at himself for allowing himself to be talked into going back into the woods to teach survival skills to Derek. Brian starts to feel sorry for himself. But then he stops himself, because he hears himself acting babyish and immature. On page 67 he says, “Listen to me… If I were talking out loud, I’d be whining. Derek gets hit and I act like I’m the one getting messed up.” Derek stops himself from feeling sorry for himself. And then he moves on to trying to solve the problem of saving Derek’s life.**

**Brian clearly is wondering/reflecting and considering options on page 67 when he thinks, “Could he stay here with Derek for a week or ten days and wait for them? Could he not stay? What choices did he have?” Brian is listing all of the different trates that he has.**

**At the end of this chapter, after Brian senses the smell of human waste; he identifies that Derek has “soiled” himself. Brian chooses a solution when he says, “It had to be done. He had to clean Derek, take care of him, take care of another human being.”**

**So, Brian comes up with a plan to clean up Derek’s waste. We read on page 68 that the resources that Brian gathers are bathrooms and parrents. Then he performs, or does, the solution when he carries Derek’s waste and buries it in a ditch. when we read that “He spent the morning trying to remember what he knew” about comas. At the top of page 72, Brian makes a observation about how long he thinks Derek can survive. We read, “But Brian was sure Derek could not go that long without water…. Somewhere he’d heard or read or seen that the human body couldn’t go that long without water.” So, Brian makes a “small spoonlike holder out of birch bark” and pours water down Derek’s throat. Here, Brian has used resources and has acted on his behalf. When he see'The thinking process/problem-solving process continues. In chapter 13, on page 71, Brian is clearly reflecting or wondering s that Derek coughs up the water, Brian has another problem: Derek cannot drink.**

**At this point, on page 73, Brian doesn’t know what to do. He throws down a stick, which bounces into Derek’s briefcase. When Brian sees the briefcase, “as if for the first time” he is making an aduration. When Brian says, “What have you got in here?” he is Wondering/Reflecting. When Brian opens up Derek’s briefcase, he finds the map of the wilderness area where they are. On the map, he saw a river.**

**Brian unfolds the map and he follows the flow of the river. He observes the words “Brannock Tradeing Post,” on page 78.**

**When we read that Brian thinks to himself, “There would be people there…. A trading post would have people” we know that he is making a perdiction. On page 79, we read that Brian calculates that the trading post is about 150 kilometers, or just under 100 miles. When Brian thinks to himself that he could leave Derek and go down the river and bring back help, he is out of options. But then, he predicts that wild animals might attack or eat Brian. Brian decides that he cannot leave Derek. Here, he is making a prdiction.**

**At the very bottom of page 79, we read, “What if he took Derek with him?” Here, Brian is using “what-if”thinking. Once again, this is the step of making a prediction. On page 80, Brian makes numerous predictions: “If he stayed, Derek would die of thirst…. If he made the run…at least there was a chance.” Finally, Brian has a solution at the end of page 80 when we read: “He had no choice.” beginning of chapter 15, Brian calculates that to float down the river would take thirty-five or forty hours. On page 82, he chooses a when we read, “He needed to build a raft.”**

**Shortly after that, on page 82, Brian names or solve a problem. The problem is not that he lacks wood, but that he cut wood to build a raft. Luckily, Brian observes on page 83 that bevers chewed trees, and the trees are the right size to make a raft. He thinks, “It’s like I hired them.” Here, Brian is making a perdiction to use the trees cut down by the beavers. In fact, we read in the next-to-last paragraph on page 84, “He had a plan…for what he was going to do.” On page 85, Brian actually does his plan. He weaves together the large and small pieces of wood cut down by the beavers, and he cuts strips from his jacket to hold the raft firmly in place.**

**At the end of chapter 15, on page 87, Brian must decide if he, in fact, will act on his behalf of bring Derek down the river on the raft. So, Brian goes through a process that looks a little like a scientific experiment. He thinks, “… if there was the slightest, tiniest change in Derek…Brian would call off the trip and hope for the best.” When he looks into Derek’s eyes, measures his breathing and his heartbeat, breathing into his ear, and poked Derek with his knife, Brian is acting out his experiment. But he is really making obstervation with his senses. When Derek does not react at all, Brian says, “We go.” Here, he is clearly making a perdiction.**

**At the becaining In chapter 16, the thinking process/problem-solving process continues. On pages 92 and 93, Brian slowly drags Derek down to the raft, which is in the river. He places Derek onto the raft. But just before he pushes off into the river, Brian has a sudden thought, “What if they came unexpectedly?” Here, Brian is both wondering/reflecting, considering options and making a prediction, because he is realizing that he might come to check on them suddenly. So, Brian goes right to the step of choosing a plan. He decides that he has to write a note to rescuers just in case they show up. Brian writes the note. He is acting or fakeing. And then, on pages 94 and 95, Brian performs one last “scientific” test. He tests the raft to see if it is seaworthy, whether it will float both himself and Derek. Brian starts or does his experiment by climbing on the raft and by roking back and forth. He concludes that the raft will not tip over. Thus, Brian makes a final dicision to act on his solution and push off into the river.**